

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USEEC

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TAGS: EEC, GR, GW
SUBJECT: GREEK PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' VISIT TO FRG

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 01925; (B) BONN 00269

1. AT A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE ON JANUARY 31, FRG
CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND VISITING GREEK PRIME MINISTER
CARAMANLIS MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:
 2. GREEK ACCESSION: CARAMANLIS SAID SCHMIDT HAD:
REITERATED THE FRG'S FIRM SUPPORT FOR GREEK ACCESSION;
AGREED THAT ACCESSION SHOULD BE TREATED INDEPENDENT
OF OTHER ISSUES; AND PLEDGED TO ACCELERATE NEGOTIATIONS
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TO PERMIT GREEK MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY BY THE END
OF 1979. SCHMIDT, IN TURN, STRESSED THE FRG'S
INTEREST IN GREEK ACCESSION, ADDING HIS HOPE AND
EXPECTATION THAT NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE CONCLUDED
DURING THE GERMAN EC PRESIDENCY I.E., THE SECOND HALF
OF 1978. SCHMIDT NOTED THAT SERIOUS PROBLEMS--
INDEPENDENT OF GREEK-GERMAN RELATIONS--WOULD HAVE TO

BE OVERCOME IF THIS TIMETABLE WERE TO BE MET, BUT HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THIS COULD BE DONE. SCHMIDT REITERATED THAT A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD WOULD BE NECESSARY AFTER GREEK ACCESSION.

3. CYPRUS: CARAMANLIS BEGAN BY SAYING THAT SCHMIDT HAD AGREED THAT PROGRESS ON CYPRUS SHOULD NOT BE A CONDITION OF GREEK ACCESSION. THE GREEK LEADER WELCOMED HELP AND SUPPORT FROM THIRD COUNTRIES FOR A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT BUT NOTED THAT A SOLUTION WOULD BE DEPENDENT ON THOSE STATES DIRECTLY INVOLVED. SINCE NEGOTIATIONS WERE ALREADY UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE UN, THIRD COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE TO CONFINE THEIR ROLE TO ONE OF ADVICE AND SUPPORT.

SCHMIDT ECHOED CARAMANLIS' VIEWS ADDING THAT THE FRG WAS PREPARED TO HELP IF THIS WAS DESIRED. HE STRESSED THAT BONN WOULD NOT MAKE PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS ON CYPRUS NOR WOULD IT BECOME A MEDIATOR. SCHMIDT SAID HE HAD NEVER DOUBTED CARAMANLIS' EARNEST DESIRE FOR PEACE AND HE HOPED THE NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT WOULD RESPOND FAVORABLY TO GREECE'S OFFER OF NEGOTIATIONS.

IN RESPONSE TO A REPORTER'S QUERY LATER IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE, SCHMIDT SAID HE AND CARAMANLIS HAD HAD A VERY DETAILED DISCUSSION OF CYPRUS DURING WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOME CONTRASTING VIEWS WERE EXPRESSED.

4. GREEK-GERMAN RELATIONS: CARAMANLIS OBSERVED THAT THE RELATIONSHIP WAS "IN PRACTICE, MUCH BETTER THAN IT SOMETIMES APPEARED." HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE FRG HAD AGREED TO CONTINUE MILITARY AID TO ATHENS.

5. GENERAL: SCHMIDT SAID THE TWO LEADERS HAD AGREED TO COOPERATE MORE CLOSELY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM. THEY HAD ALSO EXCHANGED VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA AND DISCUSSED PRIVATE SECTOR GERMAN INVESTMENT IN GREECE.

6. WE WILL BE FOLLOWING UP ON THE VISIT WITH FRG OFFICIALS.
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